

P22165.A01

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

5. (Amended) The agent according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 4], wherein the lactic acid that is a repeating unit in the poly lactic acid consists substantially of L-lactic acid.

6. (Amended) The agent according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 5], wherein the mixture of cyclic and/or straight chain poly lactic acids having a condensation degree of 3 to 19 is a fraction obtained by condensing lactic acids by dehydration under an inactive atmosphere, subjecting the ethanol and methanol-soluble fractions of the obtained reaction solution to reverse phase column chromatography, and eluting with 25 to 50 weight % acetonitrile aqueous solution of pH 2 to 3 and then with 90 weight % or more acetonitrile aqueous solution of pH 2 to 3.

8. (Amended) The agent according to claim 6 [or 7], wherein reverse phase column chromatography is performed by ODS column chromatography.